



Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

INSIDE

Ethiopia Refugees' Clean Stoves Scheme Wins International Green Energy Award

London, 21.00 hrs: On June 19, 2008 the world's leading green energy prize awarded £20,000 for a pioneering sustainable energy project to the Gaia Association, an organization working with the UNHCR in the Kebribeyah refugee camp near Ethiopia's border with Somalia. The Ashden Awards prize was presented to Milkyas Debebe, Managing Director of the Gaia Association, by Kenyan Nobel Prize laureate Wangari Maathai.

The Gaia Association in Ethiopia is transforming the lives of refugees by distributing stoves that use ethanol fuel, a by-product of the sugar industry. The area around the Kebribiyah

(Continued on page 5)



Milkyas Debebe (L) of Gaia Association in Ethiopia and Kenyan Nobel Prize laureate Wangari Maathai at the award ceremony

U.S. Secretary of State Praises Strength of Kenyan Democracy

By Charles W. Corey
Staff Writer

Raila A. Odinga and his delegation. Both officials talked briefly with reporters.

Washington -- U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice praised the "strength of Kenyan democracy" June 18 while announcing that she will co-chair a round table on Zimbabwe in the U.N. Security Council on June 19.

Secretary Rice spoke just before a meeting at the State Department with Kenyan Prime Minister

"It is very good to have you here," Rice told Odinga. "I believe that your election as prime minister shows that the Kenyan people have come through difficult times, but it was really the strength of Kenyan democracy, Kenyan civil society, and the will of

(Continued on page 2)

**"Traveling to the U.S. this summer?
Make your visa appointment early!**

**Due to a rush of summer travelers and students,
visa appointments should be made 3-4 weeks in advance
Please see www.ethiopia.usembassy.gov
for application instructions."**

Announcement: Democracy Fellowship
See page 10

AFRICAN ISSUES

Virginians Join International Effort to Preserve Bonobo Habitat (P 2)

Mugabe Regime Prepares to Force Vote in Sham Zimbabwe Election (P 4)

Former U.S. Aid Chief Says Agriculture Is Africa's Biggest Need (P 5)

AMERICAN NEWS

United States Saves Lives, Improves Livelihoods (P 6)

U.S. Plans New Travel Procedures for 27 Countries (P 8)

U.S. ELECTIONS

Democrat Barack Obama Opts Out of Public Financing (P 9)

Southern Minnesota's Congressional Candidates Focus on Economy (P 11)

PRESS FREEDOM & HUMAN RIGHTS

Exhibit Showcases Love-Hate Relationship Between FBI and Press (P 12)

Blurry Line Separates Politics, Journalism (P 13)

Protecting Refugees a High U.S. Priority (P 15)

ECONOMICS AND TRADE

Scholars See Varied Political Implications of Food Shortages (P 16)

As the Dollar Falls, Foreign Nationals Shop for U.S. Firms (P 17)

U.S., China Sign Accord on Energy, Environmental Issues (P 19)

GLOBAL HEALTH

Experts Learn to Collaborate as Changing Climate Affects Health (P 20)

U.S. Secretary of State Praises Strength of Kenyan Democracy . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Kenya's leaders to resolve the crisis that brings us to this moment."

Rice said she is "looking forward to an update" on Kenya's progress on its path to further democratic electoral reform. "Kenya has a good friend in the United States, and the United States believes that it has a good friend in Kenya," she added.

Odinga said Kenya is very grateful to the United States for the support it received "in our hour of need during the crisis" following the country's presidential election.

"You personally came to Nairobi, and I want to confirm here that your personal role in this process made it possible for us to

achieve ... understanding. This role [was] played also by the U.N., by the European Union, and other friends of Kenya," he added.

Rice held daylong talks in Nairobi, Kenya, February 18 in an effort to resolve a political crisis that emerged from the country's deeply flawed December 27, 2007 election between Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki and then political opposition leader Raila Odinga.

The flawed election left hundreds dead and thousands displaced from their homes after the opposition party charged the vote had been rigged in favor of the sitting government. Both sides eventually agreed

to form a coalition government, under which Kibaki continues to serve as president and Odinga is Kenya's new prime minister.

In Washington June 18, Odinga said that "peace has returned" to Kenya. "We have come here to say that Kenya is up and moving again;



Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga at the State Department in Washington June 18 (AFP Images)

we are ready for business. That's why we are actively appealing to the friends of Kenya to come back. We are appealing to the business to come and invest in Kenya, tourists to come back to Kenya, because it is now safe again. And we want the world to see that we want to move this forward."

Odinga noted that representatives from both sides of the Kenyan government were attending the talks in Washington. "We want to show that it can work. ... It's a mixed team -- both sides of the coalition [are] with me here ... the minister for defense, and also the minister for transport and assistant minister for trade."

VIEWS ON ZIMBABWE

Secretary Rice told reporters the United States remains very concerned about the crisis in Zimbabwe.

"We're concerned for the people of Zimbabwe. We're concerned for the people of the region, because [of], obviously, the refugee flow, the violence that has been a part of this crisis. We're very concerned about the elections and we're trying to support the efforts of regional organizations to ensure free and fair elections, but it's very difficult when you have the kind of intimidation that is going on now in Zimbabwe. ...

"I think that it is time for the leaders of Africa to say to President Mugabe that the people of Zimbabwe deserve a free and fair election, that you

cannot intimidate opponents, you cannot put opponents in jail, you cannot threaten them with charges of treason and be respected in the international community. And I think that's a strong message, and I hope it'll be delivered." Odinga thanked the secretary and added that Zimbabwe "remains an eyesore on the African continent." "It is a big embarrassment that a leader can say on the eve of an election that he's not willing to hand over power to an opponent, and he can only hand over power to a member of his own political party. I think this is an embarrassment to Africa because it makes a sham of the presidential elections." ♦

Virginians Join International Effort to Preserve Bonobo Habitat

By Kathryn McConnell
Staff Writer

Falls Church, Virginia -- In January, Ingrid Schulze temporarily left her comfortable home near Washington for a remote area of villages, pristine rainforest and endangered bonobos in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

The purpose of her trip was to deliver school supplies and eyeglasses to DRC's Kokolopori region and further Falls Church's two-year-old "sister city" relationship with the area, an expanse in north-central DRC along the Congo River.

Schulze was accompanied by Sally Coxe, president of the Bonobo Conservation Initiative, a Washington-based nonprofit organization devoted to ensuring the survival of the bonobo -- a species of great ape -- and its tropical forest habitat and to helping the people living in the forest areas improve their lives.

Kokolopori is one of the richest known bonobo habitat areas and the anchor site for the 1,200-square-mile Bonobo Peace Forest, a joint effort of the Bonobo Conservation Initiative and the Democratic Republic of Congo that links community-managed forest reserves and sustainable development zones. The forest reserve is managed by Kokolopori's Mongandu people; approximately 8,000 live in the region.

Kokolopori conservationist Albert Lokasola, founder of Vie Sauvage, a partner organization in Kokolopori, said the people living in the region say the rainforest is the only resource they have; they want to protect it from illegal logging and hunt-



Students singing in an assembly. Falls Church, Virginia, residents raise funds to bring education and health benefits to Congolese residents. (Kokolopori Partnership)

ing. People living in the Congo Basin recognize bonobos as relatives from the past, according to the Bonobo Conservation Initiative.

Schulze said through the sister city tie, the people of Falls Church learn about Mongandu values. By sharing friendship and resources, she said, Falls Church can help the people of Kokolopori increase their economic security.

"Together we can help protect the rarest of the great apes, help prevent tropical deforestation that contributes to climate change, and teach our children valuable lessons about global citizenship," Schulze writes on the partnership's Web site.

The school supplies that Schulze recently delivered to the Congo Basin were purchased with donations from Falls Church residents and included books, notebooks, maps and metal roofing.

She also delivered donated vision-testing equipment and eyeglasses collected by the Falls Church Lion's Club, a nonprofit service organization, with assistance from the Falls Church Victorian Society, a historical-preservation group.

The Falls Church community continues to raise money to purchase medical supplies and to pay salaries for a doctor and nurse for the Congo area's only clinic. Malaria, HIV/AIDS, diarrhea, respiratory problems and difficulties in childbirth are common in Kokolopori, according to Lokasola, whose 2005 visit to Falls Church sparked Schulze to urge her city to officially adopt Kokolopori as a sister city.

Falls Church is raising money to help a micro-credit fund started by the Bonobo Conservation Initiative so Kokolopori women can start businesses in such areas as dress

(Continued on page 19)

Mugabe Regime Prepares to Force Vote in Sham Zimbabwe Election

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington -- Zimbabwe's ruling party intends to force people to vote in the June 27 presidential runoff where incumbent President Robert Mugabe will be the only candidate on the ballot, the U.S. ambassador in Harare said, adding that the violence against the political opposition "has not abated" despite opposition candidate Morgan Tsvangirai's decision not to contest the election.

Speaking in a conference call from Harare on June 24, Ambassador James McGee said Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF)

"continues in full campaign mode" despite Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) leader Tsvangirai's decision to withdraw after weeks of violent attacks and intimidation against MDC supporters.

"We've received reports that ZANU will force people to vote on Friday and also take action against those who refuse to vote. So, they're saying 'we want an election at all costs. We want to validate Mr. Mugabe's victory here,'" McGee said.

"There's really nothing that we can do here in the international community to stop these elections," McGee said, adding that Zimbabwe's electoral commission has said the June 27 vote will go forward "no matter what." The ambassador urged the 500 international election monitors on the ground from the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the African Union (AU) to remain in the country and report what they can on the June 27 vote.



A Zimbabwean cries as she describes the post-election violence during a press conference in April 2008. (AFP image)

"Many of them have already been out in the countryside and many of them have already started to report on the intimidation and violence that they have witnessed out there," McGee said. "So we're hoping that these people will stay in the country and at least provide ... eyes on the ground for the people of Zimbabwe."

Tsvangirai remains at the Dutch Embassy in Harare. McGee said his Dutch counterpart informed him that the Mugabe regime had given assurances it would not raid the embassy and that Tsvangirai is secure and free to leave the country. However, the ambassador said, the Zimbabwean government still holds Tsvangirai's passport.

Zimbabwean police conducted a raid on the MDC headquarters in Harare on June 23 where 2,000

internally displaced persons had fled. Although most escaped, McGee said, 30 were detained. "We have no idea where these folks are right now. They may be in a prison outside of the city ... [or] dropped off in fields along the roadside outside the city," he said. The United States is trying to find ways to move MDC supporters outside the city where international organizations can provide them with food and shelter, he added.

"I think that these people will continue to be harassed by the police," McGee said.

The ambassador welcomed a June 23 statement by the United Nations Security Council on the situation in Zimbabwe as "a very clear voice from the international community." The statement condemned the Mugabe regime for preventing its political opponents from campaigning or assembling freely and for using tactics of violence and intimidation.

The U.N. statement said "the campaign of violence and the restrictions on the political opposition have made it impossible for a free and fair election to take place on 27 June," adding that "to be legitimate, any government of Zimbabwe must take account of the interests of all its citizens."

McGee called on Zimbabwe's neighbors in the Southern Africa Development Community to issue a clear statement that is "as firm and as hard hitting" as the United Nations document and that states "this is an illegitimate regime that's conducting an illegitimate election."

McGee said African regional organi-
(Continued on page 7)

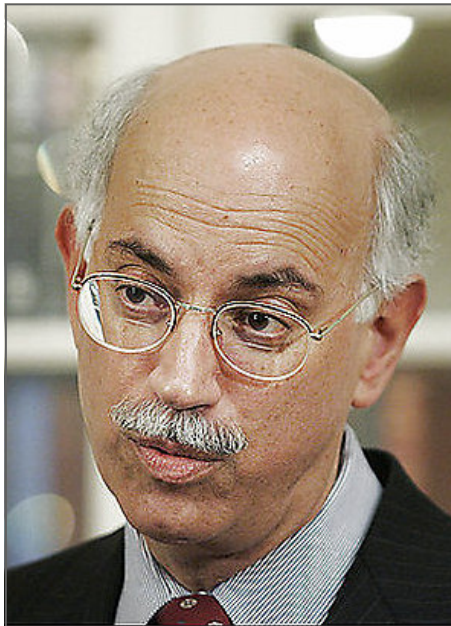
Former U.S. Aid Chief Says Agriculture Is Africa's Biggest Need

By Phillip Kurata
Staff Writer

Washington -- The former chief of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Andrew Natsios, says foreign assistance for Africa and other areas of chronic malnutrition needs to be refocused on agricultural development.

Speaking recently at the Hudson Institute in Washington about rising global food prices, the former USAID administrator said that two U.S. interest groups, one representing the environmental movement and the other U.S. farmers, have opposed U.S. agricultural assistance to poor farmers in Africa and developing countries elsewhere.

"The environmental community says: 'We can't trust you with more money for agriculture. You'll buy fertilizer with it and poison the soil.



Former USAID chief Andrew Natsios

You'll salinate the soil with irrigation projects. You will use pesticides and, most seriously, you will use genetically engineered seeds,'" Natsios said. As a result of their lobbying in the U.S. Congress, environmental groups have been effective in curtailing U.S. assistance to African agriculture, Natsios said.

The other group that has resisted spending money on African agricultural development is the U.S. farm lobby, which he said is motivated by a desire to prevent competition for U.S. farmers. "That is ridiculous, but that is the perception, so congressmen from those areas are reluctant to put money into the U.S. budget for that," he said.

About 1 percent of U.S. foreign aid goes for agricultural development, down from about 25 percent in 1980.

(Continued on page 21)

Ethiopia Refugees' Clean Stoves Scheme Wins . . .

(Continued from page 1)

camp, home to 17,000 Somali refugees, has suffered severe deforestation and women were always in danger of attack when they went out to collect fuel wood. The new stoves are healthier and more efficient – and families can avoid using wood altogether. Now Ethiopian manufacturers are producing the stoves locally.

"I gave my stove to my daughter when she got married, so she wouldn't have to face the dangers of going out to gather firewood." Refugee Women's Committee member.

Sarah Butler-Sloss, founder and chair of the Ashden Awards said:

"Our judges were enormously im-

pressed with the enthusiasm for the stoves among refugee women. Not only did the stoves prevent wood-collection, with its associated dangers and environmental impacts, they were also much safer, quicker and more pleasant to use, in particular avoiding the risk of respiratory and eye diseases from smoke inhalation."

Accepting the Ashden Award on behalf of Gaia Association, Milkyas Debebe said:

"The Ethiopian people, especially women and children and our growing refugee population, suffer increasingly from poor energy choices and energy poverty. Gaia is pioneering ethanol stoves and fuel, using Ethiopia's natural resources. With support from the UNHCR and the Ethiopian government we are help-

ing both Ethiopians and refugees. This Award will help us to reach more people in need."

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, Patron of The Ashden Awards, personally congratulated this year's Ashden Awards winners at a separate meeting. A Clarence House spokesperson said:

"The Prince of Wales was deeply encouraged to learn of the solutions demonstrated by the Ashden Awards that can reduce our dependency on a carbon economy. His Royal Highness was particularly impressed by the local sustainable energy initiatives recognised and promoted by the Awards, which not only meet the needs of communities, but tackle climate change and further sustainable development." ♦

United States Saves Lives, Improves Livelihoods

U.S. government aid, rooted in partnership not paternalism, helps other nations in times of crisis and provides ongoing developmental assistance to countries that govern justly, invest in their people and promote economic freedom.

United States of America

The United States is the world's largest donor of bilateral and multilateral foreign aid. It gave \$23.5 billion in official development assistance in 2006.

The United States is the world's largest contributor to the United Nations and to multilateral development banks.

Through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the United States provided \$6 billion in HIV/AIDS funding in 2008.

The United States has provided more than \$2.5 billion to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria since the fund's launch in 2002.

The United States is the world's top contributor to landmine clearance.

Private U.S. donors gave \$30 billion in charitable contributions to developing countries in 2006.

More about American Giving
(<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2007/dec/98156.htm>)

Western Hemisphere

Between 2002 and 2006, tens of thousands of people in Latin America and the Caribbean received training under U.S.-funded higher education activities.

Between 2002 and 2006, the United States invested approxi-

Europe

From 2000 through 2006, the United States invested approximately \$5.7 million in education partnerships between colleges and universities in Europe/Eurasia and the United States.

In Kosovo, universities, private

companies and government agencies from Kosovo and the United States are collaborating to establish a Center for Energy and Natural Resource Development. The center will assist in building self-sufficiency in energy and focus on workforce development and research.

In Macedonia, the United States collaborated with the European Union to support the formation of the



Afghan refugees prepare wheat dough for bread in makeshift bakeries in camps near the Afghan/Pakistan border. The United States has supplied more than 80 percent of all food aid for vulnerable Afghans through the World Food Program. Afghanistan was number one recipient of U.S. humanitarian assistance prior to September 11, and remains so today. The U.S. Agency for International Development is the U.S. government agency that has provided development and humanitarian assistance worldwide for over 40 years. (Image courtesy of [USAID/Martin Lueders](#).)

mately \$23.5 million in education partnerships between Western Hemisphere and U.S. colleges and universities.

With U.S. assistance, women in the Western Hemisphere have received training in agriculture and natural resources management. Women also received trade and investment support to take advantage of new opportunities.

South East European University as part of a broad effort aimed at reducing ethnic conflict and providing education opportunities.

South and Central Asia

Afghanistan was the second largest recipient of U.S. bilateral aid in 2006 at \$1.4 billion.

With U.S. support, over 5.7 million

(Continued on page 7)

United States Saves Lives, Improves Livelihoods . . .

(Continued from page 6)

students are enrolled in school in Afghanistan -- over five times more than during the Taliban era. Girls now comprise 35 percent of students enrolled, a higher percentage than at any time in Afghan history.

Also with U.S. assistance, approximately 80 percent of Afghanistan's population is within walking distance of a health care organization, contributing to a 22 percent drop in infant mortality.

Since 2002, U.S. assistance helped Afghanistan increase overall agricultural production by \$1.75 billion from 2003 to 2006.

East Asia and the Pacific

The United States supports greater involvement of women in politics in Cambodia. In 2007, significant advances included a doubling of women at all local levels and increases in the number of women political candidates.

USAID partnered with the MTV Europe Foundation and MTV Networks Asia Pacific to launch an Asia-wide anti-trafficking campaign that includes television, a multilingual Internet presence and events.

In the Philippines, USAID supported the start-up of an inter-agency task force to combat trafficking in persons at Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport to prevent the use of the airport as a transit point for trafficking victims.

Middle East and North Africa

Iraq was the largest recipient of U.S. bilateral aid in 2006 with \$4.8 billion. This assistance provided for humanitarian relief, economic development, reconstruction and security assistance.

Through the Middle East Partnership Initiative, the United States has provided millions of dollars in support of university partnerships that foster civic participation and increased cultural understanding.

USAID supported Jordan's two leading businesswomen's associations, strengthening their capacity to establish women-friendly work environments and establishing a network of women power-brokers to support rising women leaders.

In Lebanon, U.S. assistance created employment and increased the income of rural women through skills, resources, equipment and information.

Africa

In 2006 U.S. bilateral aid to sub-Saharan Africa was a record-high \$5.6 billion.

From 2000 to 2006, the United States invested \$22.7 million in education partnerships between African and U.S. colleges and universities.

In Somalia, the United States provided assistance to civil society groups to increase women's participation in the political process.

A USAID safe schools program is making an important contribution to curbing gender violence in and around schools.

The Initiative for Women's Justice and Empowerment in Africa is working to curb violence against women and bring perpetrators to justice.

USAID awarded \$5.7 million to help prevent HIV infection among teenage girls in Africa.

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦

Mugabe Regime Prepares to Force Vote in Sham Zimbabwe Election . . .

(Continued from page 4)

zations such as the SADC have a much greater influence over Zimbabwe than do international bodies like the United Nations. He said the country is landlocked and pressure tactics such as border closings and isolation from its neighbors would have a "tremendous and immediate

impact." But he acknowledged he had no indication Zimbabwe's neighbors were prepared to take such action.

The SADC, including South Africa, should "take the lead and condemn this government, number one for the violence and number two for

the lack of political space that would have allowed Mr. Tsvangirai to conduct an election campaign," McGee said.

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦

United States Plans New Travel Procedures for 27 Countries

By Jonathan Schaffer
Staff Writer

Washington -- Beginning January 12, 2009, travelers to the United States from 22 countries in Europe and five in the Asia-Pacific region currently exempt from certain U.S. visa requirements will be using a new online travel authorization process.

Under the new Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA), all nationals, including children, from the 27 countries under the U.S. visa waiver program will be required to fill out an electronic travel authorization form posted on the Web (<https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/>) prior to boarding a U.S.-bound plane or vessel.

Initially, there will be no fee to submit an application. It will require answering questions about criminal records, communicable diseases, past history of visa revocation or deportation, and basic biographical data such as name, birth date and passport information. Changes in address and itinerary can be easily made online after the ESTA form has been first submitted.

"Getting this information in advance enables our front-line personnel to determine whether a visa-free traveler presents a threat before boarding an aircraft or arriving on our shores," Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said June 3. "It is a relatively simple and effective way to strengthen our security, and that of international travelers, while helping to preserve an important program for key allies." Currently, travelers from these countries must fill out a paper form detailing their passport information,

travel plans and intended length of stay when arriving on a carrier to the United States. In conjunction with the establishment of ESTA, the Department of Homeland Security is developing plans to phase out this form.

While U.S. authorities strongly recommend that the applications be submitted no less than 72 hours



prior to travel, ESTA can accommodate last-minute and emergency travelers, and travel authorization is good for two years or until the applicant's passport expires, whichever is first. However, if the traveler acquires a new passport or changes a name or other identifying biographical information, a new travel authorization would be required.

The countries currently included in the visa waiver program are Andorra, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Other countries being considered for inclusion in the program at a

later date include Slovakia, Hungary, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, the Czech Republic, Malta and South Korea.

The new process is intended to determine whether a traveler to the United States is a law enforcement or security risk. U.S. officials warn that after ESTA becomes mandatory, travelers who have not received prior approval may be denied boarding, experience delays or be denied admission at a U.S. port of entry.

Also, ESTA is not a substitute for a visa, and visas will still be required for certain travel from the visa waiver countries. It is principally for those individuals planning to travel to the United States for temporary business or pleasure. Individuals from those and other countries traveling under valid visas will not be required to apply through ESTA. And just like with visas, those traveling with an ESTA approval will still be required to go through pre-clearance facilities at U.S. ports of entry. If an applicant is not approved for travel through ESTA, he or she would have to apply for travel through the normal visa process. And if a traveler previously had been refused admission or a visa to the United States, he or she would not be eligible for ESTA.

Around August 1, 2008, U.S. Customs and Border Protection will begin to accept voluntary ESTA applications through the ESTA Web site: <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/>. Initially, the Web site will be in English only, but other languages will be added by October 15. U.S. officials say that all answers to questions must be completed in English and that the applicant's computer should be configured to include a suitable

Democrat Barack Obama Opts Out of Public Financing

By Michelle Austein
Staff Writer

Washington -- Presumed Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama will not use public financing to pay for his general election campaign, making him the first candidate to opt out of the system since it was created in 1976. This move enables Obama to raise and spend as much money as he chooses.

The public financing system has funneled tens of millions of dollars into presidential campaigns. When Americans file their annual income tax returns, they are asked if they want to donate \$3 to a presidential election campaign fund. Those donations are then split among the presidential candidates for their general election campaign use. In 2008, major party candidates are eligible to receive \$84 million to use for their campaigns once they are officially declared their parties' nominee at national conventions.

By agreeing to participate in public financing, a candidate cannot accept additional private contributions. Obama raised nearly \$250 million in the primary campaign season; by not participating in public financing, political experts believe he can raise at least another \$250 million.

Federal law allows Americans to donate up to \$2,300 to a candidate in the general election campaign. Many of Obama's donors thus far have donated small amounts of money. This allows the Illinois senator to return to his donors to ask for

more money, which enables him to raise money more quickly and more efficiently than a candidate who has to seek new donors.

In a video message to supporters, Obama said the current public financing system is "broken" be-



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama

cause it has loopholes allowing special interests to raise and spend unlimited amounts of money on campaigns.

"You've fueled this campaign with donations of five dollars, 10 dollars, 20 dollars, whatever you can afford. And because you did, we've built a grassroots movement of over 1.5 million Americans," Obama said. "You've already changed the way campaigns are funded because you know that's the only way we can truly change how Washington works."

Presumed Republican nominee John McCain called Obama's decision

"disturbing." Obama said last fall he would use public financing if his Republican opponent did the same.

"This election is about a lot of things, but it's also about trust," McCain said. "It's also about whether you can take people's word. ... He said he would stick to his agreement. He didn't."

McCain has not specifically stated he will take public financing, but political experts suggest that the presumed Republican nominee will do so.

McCain Unveils New Position on Offshore Oil Drilling

As the average cost of a gallon of gas in the United States topped \$4 -- making gas prices a big campaign issue -- political leaders on both sides of the aisle are looking for solutions.

Although he previously said he opposed new offshore oil drilling, the Arizona senator announced June 17 that he now supports allowing drilling along certain coastlines. Drilling in much of these areas has been banned for 27 years, largely due to environmental concerns.

Addressing those concerns, McCain said, "Offshore drilling [is] safe enough these days that not even hurricanes Katrina and Rita could cause significant spillage from the battered rigs off the coasts of New Orleans and Houston."

Responding to McCain's position, Obama said there is "no way that allowing offshore drilling would lower gas prices right now. At best

(Continued on page 10)

Democrat Barack Obama Opts Out of Public Financing . . .

(Continued from page 9)

you are looking at five years or more down the road."

President Bush also announced this week that he supports ending the offshore drilling ban. A May Gallup Poll found that 57 percent of Americans favor allowing offshore drilling.

Dealing with terrorists was a hot topic on the campaign trail this past week as well, in light of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling allowing enemy combatants the right to challenge their detention.

Obama says he supports the court's ruling, while McCain said he strongly disagrees with the court's decision.

McCain's campaign highlights the Arizona senator's years of military experience to show he would be a stronger president on national security issues.

Campaigning for McCain, former Republican presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani argued June 18 that Obama would be too defensive when fighting terrorism, saying the presumed Democratic presidential nominee would "go back to a pre-

September 11th view of terrorism."

Obama quickly responded, accusing the McCain camp of "fear-mongering."

For more information on candidates' views on the environment, national security and other issues, see "Candidates on the Issues (<http://uspolitics.america.gov/uspolitics/elections/issues.html>)."

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦

DEMOCRACY FELLOWSHIPS

The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) invites applications to its Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program. Established in 2001 to enable democracy practitioners and scholars from around the world to deepen their understanding of democracy and enhance their ability to promote democratic change, the program is based at NED's International Forum for Democratic Studies, in Washington, D.C.

Program: The program offers five-month fellowships for practitioners to improve strategies and techniques for building democracy abroad and five- to ten-month fellowships for scholars to conduct original research for publication. Practitioners may include activists, lawyers, journalists, and other civil society professionals; scholars may include professors, research analysts, and other writers. Projects may focus on the political, social, economic, legal, and cultural aspects of democratic development and may include a range of methodologies and approaches.

Eligibility: The fellows program is intended primarily to support practitioners and scholars from new and aspiring democracies. Distinguished scholars from the United States and other established democracies are also eligible to apply. Practitioners are expected to have substantial experience working to promote democracy. Scholars are expected to have a doctorate, or academic equivalent, at the time of application. The program is not designed to pay for professional training or to support students working toward a degree. A working knowledge of English is an important prerequisite for participation in the program.

Support: The fellowship year begins October 1 and runs through July 31, with major entry dates in October and March. All fellows receive a monthly stipend, health insurance, travel assistance, and research support through the Forum's Democracy Resource Center and the Reagan-Fascell Research Associates Program.

Application: For further details and to download our application materials, please visit us online at www.ned.org/forum/reagan-fascell.html. All application materials must be type-written and in English.

Deadline: Applications for fellowships in 2009–2010 must be received no later than November

Southern Minnesota's Congressional Candidates Focus on Economy

By Kathryn McConnell
Staff Writer

Washington -- Achieving energy independence and improving the economy will be key issues for voters in Minnesota's 1st Congressional District when they choose between incumbent Democrat Tim Walz and Republican Brian Davis for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Minnesota candidates received their parties' endorsements at state conventions held separately in Rochester, Minnesota, in early June. Delegates to those meetings were elected at district conventions in the spring.

Candidates will be selected officially in the state primary in mid-September, but historically Minnesota voters have backed the endorsed candidates.

Walz had no serious challenger for the party endorsement, but Davis was challenged by State Senator Dick Day, a sales representative from Owatonna, who said illegal immigration should be the central campaign issue.

In the Senate race, Republican incumbent Norm Coleman faced no serious opposition within his party, but Democratic Senate candidate Al Franken, a nationally known comedian, overcame an early challenge from Minneapolis attorney Mike Ciresi and later from academic Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer of St. Paul, Minnesota.

Minnesota, once known as a conservative state and then as a liberal stronghold, in recent years has become centrist, which makes it one of the states the major political parties consider "in play," or able to be



Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty

won by either party, for 2008.

Political pundits have speculated that Republican Governor Tim Pawlenty could be a running mate for presumed Republican nominee John McCain. They cite Pawlenty's relative youth (age 47 compared to McCain's 71) and experience as a governor as good qualities in a vice presidential candidate. Republicans will hold their national convention in September in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Pawlenty, whose term does not expire until January 2011, has been criticized for scrimping on road and bridge repair, activities some say should be funded with higher fuel taxes. But Minnesota residents, already among the most highly taxed U.S. citizens, seem resistant to additional taxes.

The issue came to the forefront in 2007 when a major highway bridge in Minneapolis collapsed, causing 13 deaths and injuries. In June another major bridge was closed for safety reasons. Big city mayors throughout the country are calling on Congress for more federal funds for infrastructure repair.

THE CONGRESSIONAL RACE

Republican Davis wants to increase U.S. oil production by allowing oil exploration and drilling offshore and in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Davis, a nuclear engineer who has worked in the energy industry, has said these areas could produce enough oil and natural gas to meet U.S. transportation needs for a decade. He opposes federally mandated mileage standards for motor vehicles.

His Democratic opponent opposes drilling for oil in Alaska's protected area and instead supports more research into alternative energy sources. Walz also helped get federal funding for a new biofuel research center at the university in Mankato, Minnesota.

On the economy, Walz favors more funds for re-training unemployed workers and wants job training programs for younger workers to help them gain useful job skills. He also supports tax credits for small businesses.

The Democrat, now serving his first term in Congress, recently voted for the new multiyear farm bill, which offers supports for new farmers and for fruit and vegetable growers. Walz opposes mandatory country-of-origin food labeling.

Davis has called for more examination of U.S. trade agreements with

(Continued on page 14)

Exhibit Showcases Love-Hate Relationship Between FBI and Press

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington -- Using an arsenal of tactics such as selective leaks and reprisals against negative press coverage, the FBI cultivated a relationship of "cooperation and conflict" with the news media as it rose from a fledgling crime-fighting organization to the primary investigative branch of the U.S. government.

The Washington Newseum's new "G-Men and Journalists" exhibit examines the complex relationship between government agencies and the press. A mutual dependence is driven by government's need to promote its activities with the public and journalism's need to give its audience interesting, objective information. But the mutual distrust engendered by conflicting goals makes for an uneasy partnership.

"There's been an evolution in the relationship between the media and the FBI. Sometimes it has been very cooperative. Other times it has been extraordinarily combative," Newseum Deputy Director Susan Bennett told America.gov.

The FBI's first director, J. Edgar Hoover, ran the bureau for a crucial 48 years as its duties expanded from a 1930s fight against organized crime into counterespionage during World War II and the Cold War, and controversial surveillance activities on U.S. civil rights and anti-war leaders in the 1960s and 1970s.

"J. Edgar Hoover was a master at maneuvering and manipulating the press," Bennett said. "He loved to leak stories that were favorable to the FBI and that certainly helped burnish the FBI's image as crime



*FBI's first director, J. Edgar Hoover
(Courtesy The Associated Press)*

fighters in the early days. He also punished people in the media" who wrote stories he did not like. The FBI's famous 10 Most Wanted list began as a 1949 media query when International News Service reporter James F. Donovan asked a bureau spokesman, "Who are the 10 toughest guys you are looking for?" The ensuing front page article in the Washington Daily News proved such a hit that the bureau even now regularly publicizes the list as a tool to help capture fugitives.

However, reporters critical of Hoover and his bureau earned the nickname "jackals" from the director. Being a jackal, Bennett said, "could mean that you weren't granted access to interviews or it could be in some cases, reporters were actually investigated ... their mail was intercepted, wiretaps were put on their phones."

The exhibit highlights the case of William Beecher, a New York Times reporter who wrote about then-secret U.S. bombing campaigns in Cambodia during the Nixon administration in the early 1970s. Beecher gave the Newseum the memo signed by Attorney General John Mitchell in 1970 authorizing a telephone wiretapping operation.

Patty Rhule, a project editor for the exhibit, showed America.gov an e-mail from Beecher.

"In order to tap my home and office phones, the FBI had -- for the first time -- to tap the entire switchboard of the New York Times Washington bureau. That was the only way they could tap my office calls. And that was a bold step, requested by Hoover and OK'd by Mitchell," he wrote.

Civil rights leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. and anti-war activists like John Lennon were also the targets of the FBI's domestic surveillance activities. But Hoover's tactics "mellowed" after journalists publicized these investigations, according to Bennett.

ETHICAL DILEMMAS OF A RESPONSIBLE FREE PRESS

Along with the circulation of the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list, the news media and the FBI found other ways to cooperate against crime. The Newseum exhibit highlights the 1932 kidnapping and murder of famed aviator Charles Lindbergh's child and how classified ads in the press were used to pass messages between the kidnappers and law enforcement.

In the United States, news outlets continue to struggle with the ethical

(Continued on page 14)

Blurry Line Separates Politics, Journalism

By Eric Green
Staff Writer

Washington -- Can people formerly involved in politics and government be objective journalists? Is it appropriate for journalists to enter the political realm? Respected professionals give America.gov a qualified "yes," but say a wall needs to be maintained when professionals move to different sides of the podium.

Former State Department official Hodding Carter III says the "so-called revolving door" between government/politics and the news media is as old as the United States, founded in 1776.

"The debate is much more recent, in large part because journalism finally evolved a code of ethics in the 20th century and made tentative stabs toward professionalizing its ranks," said Carter, a former newspaperman who is now professor of leadership and public policy at the University of North Carolina.

Whether the revolving door is a "good or a bad thing depends on the individual," said Carter. "Some of the people with the greatest integrity," said Carter, such as the late NBC newsman Tim Russert, "were once happily employed in politics and then were happily employed in the media."

Carter, the State Department's assistant secretary of state for public affairs in the 1970s under President Jimmy Carter (no relation), also cited former U.S. Information Agency Director Edward R. Murrow as working as a newsman for CBS and then for the government, and former White House aide and Re-

publican strategist Karl Rove, who is now a commentator for Fox News and also a contributor to Newsweek magazine and the Wall Street Journal.

Carter said that "I found government work to have been invaluable to my later journalism and an eye-opener for someone who had spent 17 years as a reporter and editor" before his four-year stint began at the State Department.

POLITICIANS BRING INSIDE KNOWLEDGE TO JOURNALISM

Richard Wald, a journalism professor at Columbia University in New York, said one positive about politicians becoming journalists is that they "bring with them a fund of knowledge and details of the actual [political] process that most reporters never get."

On the negative side, he said, former politicians bring with them the "prejudices of the administrations they served, skewing -- consciously or unconsciously -- the information knowledge that they have."

Therefore, Wald added, the news organizations that former politicians "wind up serving ought to be clear with their audiences/readers" about their "previous allegiances." That means, he said, "not only an announcement" by the new hires about their former work in politics, "but occasional reminders along the way," which in most cases, Wald said, could be announced for as long as a year.

Wald said that on the whole, "it is a good thing that people move from politics to journalism, and vice versa."

The real problem, he said, is the "reversal of the process." When a journalist leaves that profession to return to politics, it "raises the suspicion" that the journalist never was "disinterested but was, in fact, in the service of an ideology. It casts a retrospective shade over what the person did as a journalist" and his or her real intentions.

One example of a journalist switching to politics is former print and television newswoman Linda Douglass, who in May joined the presidential campaign of Barack Obama.

Another is Tony Snow, who went from being a talk show host on Fox News to White House press secretary for President Bush, and now is a commentator for CNN.

AIMS OF POLITICS, JOURNALISM DIFFER

Tom Rosenstiel, director for the Washington-based Project for Excellence in Journalism, said the potential advantage of having people go from politics and government into journalism is that they understand the workings of government and how "politicians talk and think."

But the potential risk, Rosenstiel said, is that journalism and politics/government have different aims. Politics is about "effecting outcomes, pushing certain policies over others and having a political ideology or view that you want to advance" in government, he said.

In contrast, said Rosenstiel, journalism ... comes from a tradition that no one side has the answers. The goal of journalism is to get people

(Continued on page 22)

Southern Minnesota's Congressional Candidates Focus on Economy . . .

(Continued from page 11)

other nations to ensure they are fair, and has argued that lawsuits and excessive regulation are driving American jobs overseas. He wants reforms in those areas, and also calls for lower taxes.

IMMIGRATION, IRAQ

Minnesota is home to approximately 317,000 immigrants, 28 percent of whom have arrived since 2000, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Minnesota state demographers estimate that between 50,000 and 70,000 of these are undocumented.

Incumbent Senator Coleman seeks to ban states from issuing driver's licenses or other official identifica-

tion to illegal immigrants and wants to end the practice of "sanctuary cities" where local law enforcement authorities are barred from asking people about their immigration status during routine actions such as writing motor vehicle violation citations.

Democratic challenger Franken backs immigration reform, imposing fines or jail time on employers who violate hiring laws, and guest-worker programs to help fill seasonal jobs such as in agriculture and tourism.

Both congressional candidates say immigrants who do not have legal residency status and wish to work in the United States should be required to return to their home countries and apply for legal residency

from there. Davis says employers who hire illegal workers should be penalized.

Davis supports building the border security fence along the U.S. southern border; Walz, who says a fence along the southern border of the United States would be unworkable, supports increasing the number of border patrol agents and using technology to monitor the border.

A Mayo Clinic physician and cancer specialist, Davis is opposed to a timetable for troop withdrawal, instead favoring letting Iraqis decide on the extent of U.S. involvement. Walz, a former secondary school teacher and former member of the National Guard, says it is time for the United States to leave Iraq. ♦

Showcases Love-Hate Relationship Between FBI and Press . . .

(Continued from page 12)

dilemma of circulating messages from criminals and killers, even if such publicity could help lead to their capture.

In 1995, Ted Kaczynski, who was known as the "Unabomber" for his 20-year campaign of bombings against universities, airlines and other targets, sent a letter to the New York Times promising to "desist from terrorism" if his manifesto against modern technology was published.

The FBI asked major American newspapers to accede to the request in hopes the manifesto would help identify the killer.

"That [caused] a great debate among the newspapers about whether this was the right thing to do -- to give in to the demands of a



The FBI's 10 Most Wanted," which came from a 1949 media inquiry, is an example of government-press cooperation. (Courtesy the Newseum)

mad bomber, literally," Bennett said. "And in the end, they did that.

And in the end, that led to his capture because his brother recognized some of the phrases in there and he called the authorities and that led to his arrest."

However, at the same time, many news outlets are reluctant to air statements by terrorism figures such as Osama bin Laden or videos such as the beheading of kidnapping victims.

"It's a real ethical dilemma for the media, both in this country and internationally. Because at what point do you stop informing the public of things that you have in your position because it's inappropriate or because it's beyond anything, the usual guidelines of sensitivity?" Bennett asked. "Judgment has to be used by the media as well as by law enforcement officials in cases such as this." ♦

Protecting Refugees a High U.S. Priority

By Jane Morse
Staff Writer

Washington -- Refugees clearly need protection; the challenge lies in determining what types of protection and how best to provide them.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) chose protection as the theme for the 2008 International World Refugee Day, observed on June 20, to raise awareness of the plight of displaced people everywhere.

There are nearly 21 million refugees around the world, according to 2007 UNHCR estimates. That number includes people driven from their countries entirely and those living within their national borders but displaced from their homes and communities. Most are in Asia, with nearly 8 million people displaced; Africa ranks second with roughly 5 million.

In 2008, the United States, the world's largest single-nation donor to efforts to help refugees, marked the day with special events in both Washington and Chicago.

NEW CHALLENGES FACE REFUGEES

"The changing face of refugee crises means that new types of protection are required," says Samuel Witten, acting assistant secretary for the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration.

In a speech delivered in Washington, Witten listed the usual types of



Afghan refugees in Pakistan (AFP image)

protection refugees require: protection from the elements, from disease, from the people who forced them from their homelands and from recruitment by guerilla forces.

"Perhaps the easiest category to overlook, and the most painful, is that refugees sometimes need protection from each other," Witten said. "In the past 10 years, the issue of gender-based violence in refugee camps has finally surfaced," he said, and he praised the work of activists to make camps safer for women. Legal protection for refugees also can be overlooked sometimes, Witten said. "In many

countries refugees are not able to work or to own land that they can farm. Some countries forbid refugees from sending their children to local schools, and thus condemn the next generation to isolation," he said.

"A worrying new development," Witten said, is the need to protect humanitarian workers who provide relief to refugees.

"In the past year," Witten said, "officials from the UNHCR and the World Food Programme have been killed in the line of duty. No longer do terrorist groups or warring factions always see humanitarian workers as neutral parties."

NEW TENSIONS ARISE AS REFUGEES SETTLE IN CITIES

As the world becomes more urban, there will be more situations in which refugees gather not in remote camps but in cities of host countries, Witten said. He cited displaced Iraqis who now are congregating in neighborhoods in Damascus, Syria, Amman, Jordan, and other Middle Eastern cities.

Such arrangements ease the need to set up new water systems and infrastructure but they create other problems, he said.

"Refugees have more contact with the local population, who may resent what they see as migrants tak-

(Continued on page 22)

Scholars See Varied Political Implications of Food Shortages

By Phil Kurata
Staff writer

Washington -- The rising prices and growing shortages of food may cause political instability but are unlikely to lead to greater democracy.

This is the conclusion drawn by two scholars, Raj Desai of the Brookings Institute and Andrew Natsios of Georgetown University, in a recent symposium at the Hudson Institute in Washington.

The important factors in assessing prospects for democratic change in the current period of global food shortages are the degree of income inequality in a country and the proportion of national wealth based on agriculture or natural resources.

Countries with great disparities of individual income and national economies based on agriculture or minerals are unlikely to advance toward democracy, according to Desai.

"In very unequal societies, the chances for democratization are slim because the median voter is poor so redistributive pressures are severe. Wealth holders are more likely to try to repress those demands through autocratic rule," Desai said.

"These distributional conflicts get worse when wealth is held in the form of specific assets, such as land, which limits the ability of holders of that wealth to exit the system. Money that cannot go anywhere tends to impede movement toward democracy," Desai said.



*Brookings Institute scholar
Raj Desai (Brookings Institute)*

The Brookings scholar said rising food prices are likely to harm urban populations far more than rural residents.

"Certainly, landowners and food producers are going to benefit at the expense of net food consumers. As a result, you will not see urban groups forming populist coalitions with rural

groups," Desai said.

While prospects for greater democracy are dim, the environment of food shortages may cause urban unrest, which may lead to regime changes, Desai said. Other predictable changes are shifts of wealth away from urban centers to the countryside and reductions of the gaps between rural and urban incomes, he said.

Andrew Natsios, a former chief of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and currently a professor at Georgetown University, said the fact that the current food shortages affect primarily urban areas raises the likelihood of political

instability. "No one falls in a coup from people rioting in some remote mountain village," Natsios said. In studying four 20th-century famines that took place under totalitarian regimes, Natsios found that political repression tightened in the aftermath. This was true in Stalin's

rule of the former Soviet Union in the 1930s, Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward movement in China in the late 1950s and early 1960s, the Ethiopian famine that occurred during the Mengistu regime in the 1980s, and the recent North Korean famine under Kim Jong Il, he said.

"After the famines took place, there were aggressive internal measures to increase the level of oppression, which was already very substantial, in order for the people in power to recover political power they had lost during the crisis," Natsios said.

Natsios said totalitarian states with large standing armies suffer from weakened military support when massive famines occur because a large number of soldiers' relatives starve to death.

"We know at least one coup attempt took place against Kim Jong-Il as a result of the famine. There

were also two military mutinies that were related to the famine. Kim Jong-Il conducted his own purges of the military to avoid a coup," Natsios said.

The former USAID chief said a famine has not occurred so far in



*A farmer harvests rice in a paddy field in
Thuy Huong village, outside Hanoi.*

a democracy because democracies have institutions that are responsive to the needs of their citizens, with India as a prime example.

"India had famines for thousands of years, but since independence, it has not had one," he said. ♦

As the Dollar Falls, Foreign Nationals Shop for U.S. Firms

By Andrzej Zwanecki
Staff Writer

Washington -- In addition to iPods, laptops and other consumer goods, U.S. companies increasingly are found on the shopping lists of European, Canadian and other foreign buyers drawn to the United States by the falling U.S. dollar.

In 2007, foreign investors bought stakes in U.S. companies whose businesses range from financial services and real estate to steel making and lighting. Foreign acquisitions totaled a record \$414 billion, almost 90 percent more than the previous year and almost 30 percent more than 2000's record, according to Thomson Financial, an economic data and research firm.

The relative weakness of the U.S. dollar creates opportunities for companies in countries with stronger currencies. They can buy U.S. businesses at bargain prices, according to economists.

"The valuation of U.S. companies compared to Japanese or European firms makes them reasonably attractive," Brian Bethune of economic forecasters Global Insight told America.gov.

Other economists say the reasons behind the trend are more varied.

Foreign companies give more weight to the rates of growth of the U.S. economy, expected rates of return and other economic factors than to the short-term movements of the U.S. currency, according to a Congressional Research Service 2007 report.

Jeffrey Garten, an international



Alcatel shareholders watch the French firm's chairman as they consider the acquisition of U.S. firm Lucent Technologies in 2006.

trade expert at the Yale School of Management, told America.gov that foreign companies are not much different from U.S. firms that want to expand their business and global presence. In the United States, the foreign companies find it easier to buy an existing business with its connections and market presence than to establish a subsidiary.

Other reasons cited by executives of foreign companies include the large size of the U.S. market, low production costs, proximity to leading technology centers and tariff-free access to Mexican and Canadian markets.

Whatever the reasons, increased foreign direct investment has been welcomed by many U.S. businesses and state governors. As credit supply in the U.S. economy tightens, some U.S. companies do not mind being acquired by cash-rich foreign corporations. Governors of many states actively court foreign investors, hoping the infusion of foreign money will create new jobs and sof-

ten the impact of a slowing economy.

The Bush administration supports open investment. According to Deputy Treasury Secretary Robert Kimmitt, foreign direct investment creates well-paying jobs, spurs innovation, improves productivity and boosts exports.

Most private-sector economists share his view.

"It is better for a U.S. company to be acquired by a large foreign corporation than, say, by a U.S. hedge fund," Bethune said. European and Asian companies tend to bring new technology, new skills and access to new markets and are more patient in regard to return on investment, he said.

COMMUNITY REACTION

The local perception of investments varies. The benefits are more obvious to the residents of Pittsfield,

(Continued on page 18)

As the Dollar Falls, Foreign Nationals Shop for U.S. Firms . . .

(Continued from page 17)

Massachusetts, where a Saudi corporation promised to add employees at a local plastics plant it bought from General Electric Company, than they are to residents of Murray Hill, New Jersey, where a French company bought Lucent Technologies Incorporated in 2007. Workers at the newly named Alcatel-Lucent face layoffs.

Managers of small and medium-size businesses tend to be more anxious about their firms being taken over by foreign nationals than those at large U.S. corporations, experts say.

Alan Tonelson, a research fellow at a trade group representing small and mid-size U.S. manufacturers, believes that, by targeting mostly leading technology firms, foreign companies are "acquiring control over the most dynamic pieces of the American economy."

"They're acquiring control over America's future," he told The Boston Globe.

So far, such arguments have not reverberated in Congress, where calls for more scrutiny are aimed at deals by sovereign wealth funds and state-owned companies.

But Garten expects some political backlash if acquisitions by foreign private-sector firms stir national security sensitivities. "Sometimes it is going to be a genuine concern, and sometimes it will be used just as an excuse to preserve the status quo," he said.

The harbinger of things to come may be uneasiness expressed by



In June, InBev of Belgium made a bid to take over U.S. brewer Anheuser-Busch, the maker of Budweiser beer.

several politicians over the unsolicited bid by InBev of Belgium for Anheuser-Busch Companies, the iconic, Missouri-based maker of Budweiser beer. Matt Blunt, Republican governor of Missouri, and Senator Claire McCaskill, a Democrat, of the same state oppose the deal.

Bethune believes that misgivings by politicians and the American public about "the Euro invasion" or "a fire sale" of U.S. corporate assets similar to those caused by the rise in Japanese investment in the 1980s can make foreign companies weary of investing in U.S. businesses.

Todd Malan, who heads a lobbying group representing foreign companies in the United States, warns that anti-foreigner sentiments can strengthen protectionists and give them excuses to erect new barriers. This would deprive the U.S. economy of much-needed capital, he said.

For that reason, protectionists are likely to lose any major confrontation with U.S. financial and manufacturing companies, according to some experts. The hunger for capital will prevail over the political forces, Garten said.

The text of prepared remarks (<http://www.ustreas.gov/press/releases/hp710.htm>) on this subject by Deputy Secretary Kimmitt can be found on the Treasury Department Web site. The Congressional Research Service's 2007 report (<http://opencrs.cdt.org/document/RL34000>) on foreign direct investment can be found on its Web site.

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦

United States, China Sign Accord on Energy, Environmental Issues

By Merle D. Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington -- The United States and China have signed a framework for cooperation on energy and environmental issues and will launch negotiations on an investment treaty, says U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson.

Paulson and Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan completed two days of meetings at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, June 18, and signed a 10-year Energy and Environment Cooperation Framework. The framework is designed to address energy security, environmental sustainability and climate change, Paulson said at a news briefing.

The 10-year framework will center on five areas -- electricity, air, water, transportation and conservation of forest and wetland ecosystems, Paulson said. "We will pursue the concept of eco-partnerships as a potential vehicle for voluntary cooperative initiatives across public and private entities," he said.

In addition to the environmental and energy arrangement he and Wang

signed June 18, Paulson said negotiations are being launched on a bilateral investment treaty. "The conclusion of a [treaty] would send a strong signal that our two nations welcome investment and will treat each other's investors in a fair and transparent manner," he said.



Treasury Secretary Paulson (R) with China's Vice Premier Wang Qishan after signing ceremony, June 18, 2008. (AP Photo/Lawrence Jackson)

The new investment treaty would set standards for nondiscriminatory treatment of investments, set clear and fair regulations and set up a mechanism for arbitration of disputes. The Chinese have similar

arrangements with several European and Asian nations.

The Annapolis meeting is the fourth in the semiannual round of high-level economic talks under the "strategic economic dialogue" Paulson launched in 2006 shortly after joining the Bush administration. The next meeting will be held in Beijing in December.

Other agreements reached in the talks include:

- working groups will look at eliminating trade barriers to environmental goods.

- the nations will cooperate in sudden energy emergencies.

- China and the United States will cooperate on forest management and efforts to halt illegal logging.

- China agreed to ease barriers to allow U.S. financial service companies to operate or make investments in China and to let American credit-rating agencies operate more freely in China. ♦

Virginians Join International Effort to Preserve Bonobo Habitat . . .

(Continued from page 3)

making, soap making and wood-working.

The Falls Church-Kokolopori tie is an opportunity for residents of Falls Church to gain a greater appreciation of "global citizenship, diversity in cultures and environmental val-

ues," according to Falls Church Mayor Dan Gardner.

The Kokolopori-Falls Church Sister City partnership is the only such relationship linking an American community with the Democratic Republic of Congo, according to the Sister City International Web site.

The two communities are linked through the Washington-based Sister Cities International. The non-profit group was originated in 1956 by President Dwight Eisenhower as a citizen diplomacy initiative. ♦

Experts Learn to Collaborate as Changing Climate Affects Health

By Cheryl Pellerin
Staff Writer

Washington -- Human health ebbs and flows with the seasons, but the current confluence of extreme weather, global climate change and the shifting distribution of disease are driving the need for more active collaboration between climate scientists and public health experts.

Meetings between health and climate experts have been increasing since early 2007, when the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change confirmed that Earth's climate is changing and human activity is affecting that change.

At the latest event, "Changing Climate, Changing Health Patterns: What Will it Take to Predict and Protect," held in Washington June 18, Conrad Lautenbacher, administrator of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); Barbara Hatcher, secretary-general of the World Federation of Public Health Associations; and a panel of experts discussed Earth observations and their application to public health.

An important tool for both disciplines is the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), Lautenbacher said, an effort that integrates data from the widely distributed Earth-observing networks of surface-based, airborne and space-based monitoring instruments.

The intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO) -- a voluntary organization of 73 govern-

ments and the European Commission and 52 intergovernmental, international and regional organizations -- coordinates the GEOSS effort, which began in 2003.

EARTH FROM SPACE

The GEOSS network of data providers, panel moderator Leonard Hirsch said during a June 19 State Depart-

ment webchat, have come together "to develop standards, methodologies and tools to better use the enormous investment countries and localities have made in collecting observations from around the Earth -- everything from satellite-based images and on-the-ground measurements of water flow to biodiversity patterns and health trends." Hirsch is a senior policy adviser at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington

Scientists already use Earth observations to predict disease outbreaks. Since the 1980s, the U.S. Agency for International Development has funded projects that use remotely sensed data to address resource management, land-cover changes, monitoring and early warning systems in countries worldwide.

In 1994, scientist Rita Colwell, while studying environmental influences on cholera, suggested sea-surface temperature and height, and plankton blooms could be remotely sensed and used to forecast outbreaks.

Since 1997, through the U.S. Defense Department's Global Emerging Infections Surveillance and Response System, NASA scientists have been using satellite observations of vegetation, sea-surface temperatures and more to monitor

rainfall conditions in East Africa that are linked with outbreaks of diseases like Rift Valley fever.

Over the next decade or so, GEOSS will improve such predictions, turn data on the transport of air pollution into early warnings for cardiovascular and respiratory patients, use data on weather and stream flow to better manage drinking water, and integrate knowledge of population distribution, chemical transport and advance hurricane and flood forecasts into emergency management decisions.

(Continued on page 21)



A view of Earth from space is presented in this composite image from NASA.

ment webchat, have come together "to develop standards, methodologies and tools to better use the enormous investment countries and localities have made in collecting observations from around the Earth -- everything from satellite-based images and on-the-ground measurements of water flow to biodiversity patterns and health trends." Hirsch is a senior policy adviser at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington

Today's capacity to map and model such measurements, Hatcher said, "enables us to delve much more

Experts Learn to Collaborate as Changing Climate Affects Health . . .

(Continued from page 20)

Along with its GEOSS effort, Lautenbacher said, NOAA is planning to create a National Climate Service.

"Our nation needs not a set of activities distributed throughout NOAA and other agencies," he added, "but a clearly identified access point to the federal government's climate resources" so decision makers can make good use of observational assessments and prediction expertise.

ON THE GROUND

Climate scientists have computer models that predict changes in the

atmosphere and the effects of those changes, and even the ability of society to respond to the changes over the course of decades or centuries.

"In theory," said Frank Rijsberman, "those models could be used to predict the impact of climate change on health.

This includes training research scientists in the United States and internationally in basic research on epidemiology assessment and in communication about diseases, he added. "The backbone of any surveillance network is the ability to diagnose diseases and then communicate them properly to the rest of the world."

Such enhanced capability then could be integrated with climate predictions, Rosenthal said, especially if "the climate community is able to downscale their models to levels that are relevant to where health systems actually operate -- at the national and community levels."

In the end, he said, "even if our models are imperfect, which is the nature of models, it's a good idea and it would have a lot of co-benefits for health and human well-being, no matter how right we were in predicting" disease outbreaks. ♦

Former U.S. Aid Chief Says Agriculture Is Africa's Biggest Need . . .

(Continued from page 5)

Natsios praised President Bush for his enthusiastic support of a provision in legislation that allocates up to 25 percent of U.S. food aid for local purchase of food.

"It is the first time that any president has proposed anything like that. It's a very important reform because we could use local purchase to stimulate agricultural markets," Natsios said. The provision was part of the U.S. farm bill, which was enacted June 19.

Natsios headed USAID from 2001 to 2005. Now, he teaches at Georgetown University in Washington. Speaking at the same forum with Natsios, political scientist Robert Paarlberg said rich countries that grant developmental assistance have a cultural bias against science-based agriculture.

"Our culture has turned against sci-

ence-based farming that gave us all this prosperity. We idealize a pre-modern form of agriculture where we do away with synthetic fertilizer use. We cut back other forms of chemicals, and we don't endanger the environment with irrigation dams. We go back to traditional farming and heirloom seed varieties and organic techniques and we stay away from genetically engineered seeds," he said.

Paarlberg, the author of *Starved for Science: How Biotechnology Is Being Kept Out of Africa*, said the bias against investment in agriculture also stems from the belief that the private markets, not governments, are the engines for economic development. Proponents of this view have played influential roles in the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank since the 1980s, Paarlberg said. The World Bank, as a consequence, has veered away from making loans to build rural

roads, rural power, rural infrastructure and agricultural schools in favor of making loans for policy reform, he said.

"They neglected to study the example of the green revolution in India, which was done through the public sector and private philanthropical organizations. Multinational corporations and private business played almost no role at all," he said.

"It'll be wonderful in Iowa, but they are not the farmers who really need drought-resistant corn. The most needy are small growers in eastern and southern Africa. Who is going to move that drought corn to African farmers?" Paarlberg asked. He said that USAID and the World Bank ought to be involved in this project, but at present the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, a private charity, is the main organization doing it. ♦

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS
SECTION
AMERICAN EMBASSY**

P.O.Box 1014
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Phone: 251-11-5174007
251-11-5174000
Fax: 251-11-1242454
Email: pasaddis@state.gov

Web site
[http://](http://ethiopia.usembassy.gov)
[ethiopia.use](http://ethiopia.usembassy.gov)
[mbassy.gov](http://ethiopia.usembassy.gov)

See also

<http://www.america.gov/>

Telling America's story

Blurry Line Separates Politics, Journalism . . .

(Continued from page 13)

to consider events and issues, and to promote public discussion -- not particular outcomes."

Rosenstiel said individuals going from government into the media have to "prove that they have shed old allegiances and taken on the disciplines of their new profession."

**TIM RUSSERT A MODEL FOR
POLITICAL JOURNALISTS**

Alex Jones, a lecturer at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government on the press and public policy, said the "right kind of political types" --- such as Tim Russert -- demonstrated "that being grounded in politics is great preparation for a political reporter."

Russert worked for several New York politicians -- the late U.S. Senator Daniel Moynihan and former Governor Mario Cuomo -- before be-

coming a role model for television journalists.

Former political types have to "bend over backwards not to seem biased, which may interfere with doing an aggressive job" in journalism "when it is called for," said Jones, who won the 1987 Pulitzer Prize for specialized reporting while working at the New York Times.

Jones said when applicable, every journalist's biography should list their previous active role in politics on their news organization's Web site.

For additional information, see "Edward R. Murrow, Journalism at its Best (<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/murrow/>)."

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov/>) ♦

Protecting Refugees a High U.S. Priority . . .

(Continued from page 15)

ing their jobs," Witten said. "We just saw some violent incidents of this type in South Africa, where poor Mozambicans and Zimbabweans were attacked by poor South Africans who felt threatened.

"How will the international community work," Witten asked, "to mitigate this type of tension, which is aggravated by the fact that refugees become users of the same education system, utilities and health care providers as local people?"

U.S. ROLE IN AIDING REFUGEES

With an annual budget of roughly \$1 billion for refugee assistance, the United States is the world's largest single-country donor to ef-

forts to aid refugees and internally displaced persons. Most of that money goes to the UNHCR, which receives 22 percent of its funding from the United States, and other international organizations.

First lady Laura Bush, in hosting World Refugee Day events at the White House, said the president had approved \$32.8 million in emergency funding for conflict victims around the world.

"In the past 30 years," the first lady said, "the United States has accepted some 2.7 million refugees. And this year, we'll take in as many as 70,000 displaced men, women and children."

Although the United States welcomes more refugees each year than any other nation, resettlement

is not the ideal solution for many displaced people, nor is "reintegration," in which refugees are allowed to live and work in the countries to which they have fled.

According to Bill Fitzgerald, the deputy assistant secretary for the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, the U.S. philosophy for refugee programs is focused on finding "durable solutions."

"Assistance to refugees is not just smart politics," Fitzgerald said, "it is the right thing to do." The United States, he said, "has a major interest in a stable world. ... We cannot afford to have a patchwork of failed states spread across the world, providing succor to groups that would seek to harm us. We are all connected." ♦